

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 DHA-05 VO-03 SCA-01 CIAE-00
FBIE-00 INSE-00 NSAE-00 NEA-10 SCS-03 L-03 H-01
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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1287

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 12257

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: CASC SHUM CSCE UR (STOLAR, ABE)
SUBJECT: ABE STOLAR QUESTIONED RE SHCHARANSKY

REF: MOSCOW 12152

1. SHORTLY AFTER ABE STOLAR'S VISIT TO CONSULAR SECTION AUGUST 22 AS REPORTED REFTEL, CONSULAR COUNSELOR ESCORTED HIM TO SQUARE NORTH OF EMBASSY. DURING THE BRIEF WALK, STOLAR STATED THAT KGB INTERROGATING OFFICER, DURING JULY 20 SESSION, HAD EVINCEED MUCH INTEREST IN HIS AMERICAN CITIZENSHIP. AFTER STOLAR SUBMITTED PASSPORT FOR IDENTIFICATION PURPOSES, KGB OFFICER DISAPPEARED WITH PASSPORT FOR TWO HOURS. WHEN HE RETURNED HE GAVE PASSPORT BACK TO STOLAR AND QUESTIONED HIM IN DETAIL ON CIRCUMSTANCES OF HIS CITIZENSHIP.

2. REGARDING INTERROGATION RE SHCHARANSKIY, STOLAR STATED HE HAD NOT GIVEN ANY INCRIMINATING MATERIAL. HE ASSERTED THAT AT OUTSET, HE TRIED TO PRESS KGB OFFICER TO EXPLAIN THE BASIS FOR PINNING THE "SECRET WORK" TAG ON HIS WIFE, WHICH CAUSED REVOCATION OF THE FAMILY'S EXIT VISAS TO ISRAEL. KGB OFFICER INSISTED HE KNEW NOTHING ABOUT THAT.

3. KGB OFFICER ASKED WHETHER STOLAR HAD BEEN ACQUAINTED
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WITH SHCHARANSKIY AND WHERE THEY HAD MET. STOLAR REPLIED HE HAD KNOWN HIM ONLY SLIGHTLY BUT COULDN'T REMEMBER WHERE THEY MET. WHEN THE KGB OFFICER MENTIONED AN OCTOBER 1975 PRESS CONFERENCE AT LUNTZ' APARTMENT WHERE SHCHARANSKIY SERVED AS AN INTERPRETER, STOLAR CONFIRMED HE HAD PARTICIPATED BUT DID NOT REMEMBER THAT SHCHARANSKIY HAD BEEN THERE TOO, SINCE STOLAR DID NOT REQUIRE AN INTERPRETER.

STOLAR DENIED THAT HE HAD SIGNED A PROTEST PETITION HEADED BY SHCHARANSKIY'S SIGNATURE (HE WAS SHOWN A FACSIMILE OF THE PETITION WITH ABOUT 100 TYPED NAMES ALLEGEDLY COPIED FROM THE ORIGINAL SIGNATURES. STOLAR INSISTED THAT HE SIGNED ONLY ONE PETITION WHICH PROTESTED THE BRUTAL BEATING OF A YOUNG MAN. HE CLAIMS THAT HE EXPLAINED TO THE KGB OFFICER THAT HIS POLICY WAS NOT TO SIGN PETITIONS OR TAKE ANY OTHER ACTION WHICH COULD BE REGARDED AS INTERFERENCE IN SOVIET DOMESTIC AFFAIRS, SINCE THIS WOULD BE IMPROPER FOR AN AMERICAN CITIZEN. ACCORDING TO STOLAR, THE KGB OFFICER WAS PLEASED WITH THAT STATMENT.

4. STOLAR STATED THAT THE INTERROGATION WAS LENGTHY (FIVE HOUSR) BUT FRUITLESS. HE ALSO STATED THAT THE KGB OFFICER CONDUCTED HIMSELF IN A FRIENDLY, EVEN SYMPATHETIC, MANNER THROUGHOUT.TOON

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